



SAN DIEGO REGIONAL  
WATER QUALITY  
CONTROL BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST  
937 NO. HARBOR DR.  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92132-0058  
2003 MAR 25 A 10:55

*JMK 3/25*  
*Mike M 3/24*  
*plz postpone this item to April*  
IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N45JWB/0097  
March 19, 2003  
*JD 3-28-03*  
*PR 3-28-03*

Mr. John Robertus  
Executive Officer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92123

Item No. 10  
Supporting Document No. 7

Dear Mr. Robertus:

Our office requests a 30-day extension of the current comment period for Tentative Order No. R9-2003-0008 (draft permit). The additional time is requested for the following reasons:

1. The period between the issuance of the draft permit and the comment due date does not allow for the requisite thirty-day comment period. The draft permit was received by our office on March 12, 2003 and was posted on the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board website March 13, 2003. The comment period ends March 26, 2003, which is a public comment period of at most 15 days. The applicable NPDES regulations at 40 CFR Section 124.10(b)(1) provides, "Public notice of the preparation of a draft permit (including a notice to deny a permit application) required under paragraph (a) of this section shall allow at least 30 days for public comment." We do not believe this 30-day comment period has been satisfied.

2. The Navy is preparing for a possible war with Iraq and the restrictions associated with a war will significantly limit the ability to review and comment on the draft permit. If war comes, key Navy staff members may have limited access to their offices and meeting venues because of wartime security restrictions. The ability to review and comment on the draft permit and prepare for the public hearing scheduled for April 9, 2003 will be significantly curtailed by these restrictions. Allowing additional time to comment will ensure all necessary Commander Navy Region Southwest (CNRSW) personnel have reviewed and are briefed on the draft permit so that useful comments are provided to the Regional Board.

3. The CNRSW Environmental Assistant Chief of Staff and the Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado will both be out of town on military business during the latter part of the current comment period. Because of these prior commitments, they will be unable to review the Navy staff comments on the draft permit prior to the March 26 due date. Allowing additional comment time

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will ensure the Officer in charge of environmental affairs for CNRSW has reviewed all Navy comments prior to their submittal, and the Commanding Officer of the installation to which the draft permit pertains can be briefed.

If there are any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at (619) 524-6417.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Chichester", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT A. CHICHESTER  
Director, Water Program  
By direction of the Commander